

WHAT'S ON

Solo Painting Exhibition
 Title: 'Patakabyo Paramora' by Shambhu Acharya
 Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi
 Date: May 12-19
 Time: 10am-8pm



Theatre
 Play: Sanjhelar Bilap
 Venue: Natmandal, Dhaka University
 Date: May 16-18
 Time: 7pm



Musical Soiree
 Title: Praner Khela
 Organiser: Bengal Foundation
 Venue: Chhayanaut
 Date: May 18
 Time: 7pm



Group Art Exhibition
 Marking 13th Anniversary of Galleri Kaya
 Venue: Galleri Kaya, Uttara
 Date: May 5-28
 Time: 11am-8pm



Dhrupad & Flute Recital
 Praner Khela by Bengal Foundation
 Venue: Main Auditorium, Chhayanaut
 Date: May 18
 Time: 7pm

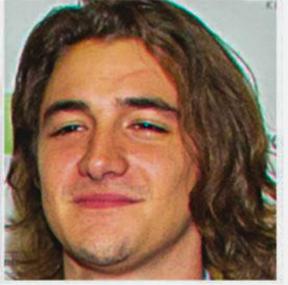


NEWS bytes

Glenn Frey's son to replace father on Eagle's tour

The Eagles have officially found their replacement for the late Glenn Frey, and it's Frey's son Deacon.

On Monday, The Eagles' Don Henley announced on Dallas sports radio station KTCK that Deacon had signed on to play a number of shows with the band in July.



"There's going to be an official announcement in a few days, but let's just do it here," Henley said. "Glenn's son Deacon is a very talented young man, and he seems to be up for the task."

Henley said that after Frey died in January 2016, he wasn't sure he wanted to continue touring with the moniker. But playing with Deacon just felt right. "I think it's the only appropriate way to carry on, since he's Glenn's blood. There'll be one more musician along for the ride too, but I'm not going to say who that is," Henley said.

The shows will take place at Los Angeles' Dodger Stadium in July and later that month at Citi Field in New York City. Other bands including Steely Dan and Fleetwood Mac will take the stage as well.

Source: **The Huffington Post**



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

EXCLUSIVE

"I write songs completely selfishly"

In conversation with Richard Marx

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Richard Marx may be known to casual fans for his big hits – "Endless Summer Nights", "Angelic", "Hazard" and the iconic "Right Here Waiting", but as a songwriter, he remains current even today – working with big-time musicians across genres. On his maiden tour to Dhaka, Marx – one of the biggest stars of world music in the '90s – sat down with The Daily Star for an exclusive interview, but some major management chaos on the part of the organisers, Creinse, pushed it back by a good few hours and allowed for only about five minutes.

You've toured all over the world. But when you come to a new place, like here in Bangladesh, do you know what to expect from the audience? Is every new place a bit of an unknown territory, or are they all the same in essence?

Richard Marx: It's definitely not all the same. Every place is different. The way the culture is sometimes determines what the audience is. In certain Asian cultures – Manila for example, they're great fans, but very reserved and calm. Last April, I played in Sri Lanka for the first time, and I had a feeling they would be a reserved, quiet audience. They went crazy. They were yelling, screaming and laughing; it was an incredibly energetic, fun audience. I have no idea what it's going to be tonight, but it's kind of fun not knowing, you know.

As a songwriter, you have written chart-topping hits, from the '80s up till now. Musically and lyrically, people's taste change over time, in general. As a songwriter who has managed to remain current for four decades, how do you think popular music has changed lyrically?

Richard Marx: The first thing that comes to mind is that especially in the last five years, pop songs have gotten more and more conversational, and have been using phrases much more freely. The Chainsmokers, for example: their lyrics are so simple and conversational, and there's something about it that I don't know if I can describe, but it's very different from even seven or eight years ago. It's changed.

How has your songwriting changed, for example, from now when you're writing for Chris Daughtry and back when you wrote for Kenny Rogers?

Richard Marx: I'm a student of music. Especially if I'm going to write with or for another artiste, I do my homework on them. I listen to what they have done, and I think – as an admirer of who this is, what is missing? What's something that I can bring to their repertoire that maybe they haven't done before? So I go in and say, respectfully, "Why don't we try this? Because I think you haven't really done this." I try to do that. Sometimes they steer you back. For example with Keith Urban, with whom I have had great success in country music, every time I try to go someplace really different with him, I find that he steers us back to where he is most comfortable. But we still write great songs.

So, your songwriting is very specific to the artiste you're writing for... and is the process different for them?

Richard Marx: The process isn't that different, but it's on my mind that I'm trying to give them something that they wouldn't normally do on their own. And when it comes to my own songwriting for myself, it's the same thing that it has always been: I write songs that I like. I write songs completely selfishly. Sometimes because I need to get something out; I need to purge something. In other cases, I am creating something that I think would be fun to listen to. And if I really like a song I've written, there's a good chance that other people would like it too.

SWAGATA'S

hectic schedule

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Popular TV and film actress Swagata has recently wrapped up shooting for an Eid play directed by Mahmud Didar, but there's still no respite for her. The artiste is set to fly to Nepal this week to shoot another TV play directed by Shokal Ahmed.

Other than shooting for TV plays, the actor is branching out with her versatility. She is going to host a month-long culinary show for ATN Bangla that will air during Ramadan. Shooting for the programme will commence before Ramadan. She is also going to host a programme organised by Prothom Alo in Chittagong where she will demonstrate her musical prowess with a few songs.

Beyond showbiz, the actor has also signed on to teach music at Ichcheta School, where Afsana Mimi is the director.

Currently the actor is in two series titled "Sunflower" and "Tin Pagoler Mela" aired on ntv and Channel i. She is also anchoring two programmes – "Rupali Diner Sonali Golpo" on Banglavisation and "Shomoy Katuk Gaane Gaane" on Boishakhi TV.

Regarding these versatile projects, the artiste has stated, "Acting, anchoring and singing are what I truly love, and enjoy doing."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

From Dhaka to Cannes



Lubna Sharmin, Kazi Mahadi Muntasir and Md Abid Mallick, three emerging Bangladeshi filmmakers are to attend Cannes Film Festival 2017 as a part of the Dhaka to Cannes Initiative, the first ever of its kind in Bangladesh, says a press release. This was organised by International Film Initiative of Bangladesh (IFIB) in partnership with International Emerging Film Talent Association (IEFTA).

The three filmmakers were selected by an international jury from a number of applications sent to the website of IFIB by aspiring filmmakers of Bangladesh. The jury comprised of writer, director and producer Mary McGuckian, entertainment publicist Gary Springer, and Alan Poul, director and producer.

The filmmakers are to participate in the Producer's Workshop hosted by the Marché du Film. At the workshop, there will be three days of intensive meetings with some of the world's most prominent filmmakers, film executives and industry power brokers, identifying best practices and relevant programmes while focusing on ways in which artistic and commercial efforts can be made sustainable across local and global markets.

As part of the programme, IEFTA will also host a reception at Plage Royale. Samia Zaman, President of IFIB and Marco Orsini, President and Founding Board Member of IEFTA, along with renowned filmmakers and film personalities from Bangladesh like Nasiruddin Yousuff, Abu Sayeed, Dr Zakir Hossain Raju, and Ahmed Muztaba Jamal Shovon will attend the event.

In the words of Marco Orsini, the IEFTA's main goal for the Dhaka to Cannes initiative is to increase awareness of filmmakers from Bangladesh to the international film community, as well as expand the role of the filmmakers coming to Cannes. He added, "We want to empower filmmakers from Bangladesh to be able to compete in a globalised film market."

Samia Zaman stated, "After visiting the festival in the last two years, I strongly suggest that every member of Bangladesh's film community explore Cannes and other film festivals."

A presentation of Gaudiya Nritya by Ayan and Shatabdi

Indira Gandhi Culture Centre organised an evening of Gaudiya Nritya by Ayan Mukherjee and Satabdi Acharyya from India at the Kobi Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum, at 6.30pm on Wednesday, according to a press release. The duo began with Rabindranath Tagore's "Nrityer Taale" as Nataraj Stuti, then moved on to "Saraswati Bandana", "Chandi Bandanas", "Desh Alapchari", "Putona Moksha" and ended the performance with Kazi Nazrul Islam's "Srijono Chonde."

Ayan Mukherjee has previously performed Gaudiya Nritya in different venues in India. He has also directed dance for NCC cadet organised by Indian Army and directed music for dance dramas like "Meghnad Badh Kavya," "Buddhacharit," and more. He has received several awards including the Dr. Manmohan Ghosh gold medal from Rabindra Bharati University and North American Bengal Conference, and the Senior National Scholarship on Gaudiya Nritya from Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Shatabdi Acharya has learnt dance forms from renowned dancers like Mahua Mukherjee, Shri Naresh Banerjee, the late Shri Mukundadas Bhattacharya, Sri Sashi Mahato and Srimati Anita Mallick. She is the recipient of several awards like Pandit Subhankar Award by Gaudiya Nritya Prasara Samity in 2009 and the West Bengal State Music Academy award. She is the founder of the dance institution 'Bikramshila'.



The Chanchal-Bhabna duo returns



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular actor Chanchal Chowdhury and up and coming actress Bhabna have been paired on screen quite a few times, and the duo went on to star in a six episode TV play aired during Eid last year. This year viewers will witness their return once again in a new TV play set to air during this year's Eid ul Fitr.

The artistes are cast in a six episode TV play titled "Chotolok", directed and scripted by Masud Shezan. Shooting is in commencement at Uttara, where Bhabna is preparing for her role as a poverty stricken, working class girl who is diagnosed with cancer. In the narrative, her character comes across a philanthropist, played by Chanchal Chowdhury, who goes to great lengths to finance her treatment.

"The plot is beautiful and heart-wrenching," said an enthused Bhabna, "when you have a great script to work on, such as this one, it motivates you to do your best. There are no words to describe my experience working with Chanchal Chowdhury. He is not only a great actor, but an amazing human being you can rely on."

Chanchal Chowdhury stated, "The story is the backbone of this play, and Masud Shezan is a strong director. Viewers will have something great to anticipate upon its release. Bhabna is a great example to the current generation of actors, and it has been a pleasure working with her."